

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A thermal spray coated piston ring, characterized in that it is provided with a thermal spray coating film which contains from 2 to 40 mass % of Sn and from 5 to 50 mass % of graphite, the balance essentially consisting of Cu.
2. (Original) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, characterized in that said thermal spray coating film is formed on the outermost peripheral surface.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1 characterized in that the thermal spray coating film contains, except for the general impurities of Sn bronze, one or more kinds selected from the group consisting of P, Sb, Co, Be, Cr, Mn, Si, Cd, Zn, Fe, Ni and Pb, and the amount of these components are: 1.0% of P at the highest, 5 % of Sb at the highest, 5% of Co at the highest, 5% of Be at the highest, 5% of Cr at the highest, 15% of Mn at the highest, 15% of Si at the highest, 15% of Cd at the highest, 15% of Zn at the highest, 5% of Fe at the highest, 20% of Ni at the highest, and 20% of Pb at the highest, the balance being Cu.
5. (Original) A piston ring according to claim 4, wherein the total amount of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of P, Sb, Co, Be, Cr, Mn, Si, Cd, Zn, Fe, Ni and Pb, is 25 mass % at the highest.

6. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, characterized in that the average hardness of the thermal spray coating film is 300Hv0.1 or less.

7. (Currently Amended) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, characterized in that an upper coating of said thermal spray coating according to claim 1 is formed on a non-mechanically machined lower coating layer ~~which has a surface roughness as thermal spray coated and is not mechanically machined~~.

8. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, wherein said thermal spray coating film is from 50 to 500 $\mu$ m thick.

9. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, wherein graphite is present in an amount of from 5 to 20 mass %.

10. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, wherein Sn is present in an amount of from 5 to 25 mass %.

11. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, further comprising P in an amount of from 0.03 to 0.5 mass %.

12. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, further comprising Pb in an amount of from 0.03 to 5.0 mass %.

13. (Previously Presented) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 8, wherein said thermal spray coating film is from 100 to 500 $\mu$ m thick.

14. (Withdrawn) A thermal spray coated piston ring, characterized in that said thermal spray coating film consists of multiple layers, an upper coating layer provided with a thermal spray coating film which contains from 2 to 40 mass % of Sn and from 5 to 50 mass % of graphite, the balance essentially consisting of Cu is formed on a lower coating layer provided with a hard chromium plating film or a hard thermal spray coating film for the purpose of wear resistance.

15. (Withdrawn) A thermal spray coated piston ring, which comprises multiple layers, an upper coating layer provided with a thermal spray coating film which contains from 2 to 40 mass % of Sn and from 5 to 50 mass % of graphite, the balance consisting essentially of Cu formed on a lower coating layer provided with a hard chromium plating film or a hard thermal spray coating film for the purpose of wear resistance.

16. (New) A thermal spray coated piston ring according to claim 1, characterized in that said thermal spray coating film comprises an upper coating layer and a lower coating layer, wherein the upper coating layer is formed on the lower coating layer, and wherein the lower coating layer has a surface roughness, and is not mechanically machined.